RSAC 2025 Conference

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Cybersecurity Myth-Busting: Fact vs. Fiction in Cyber Programs

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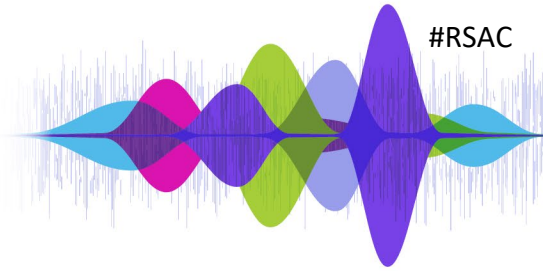

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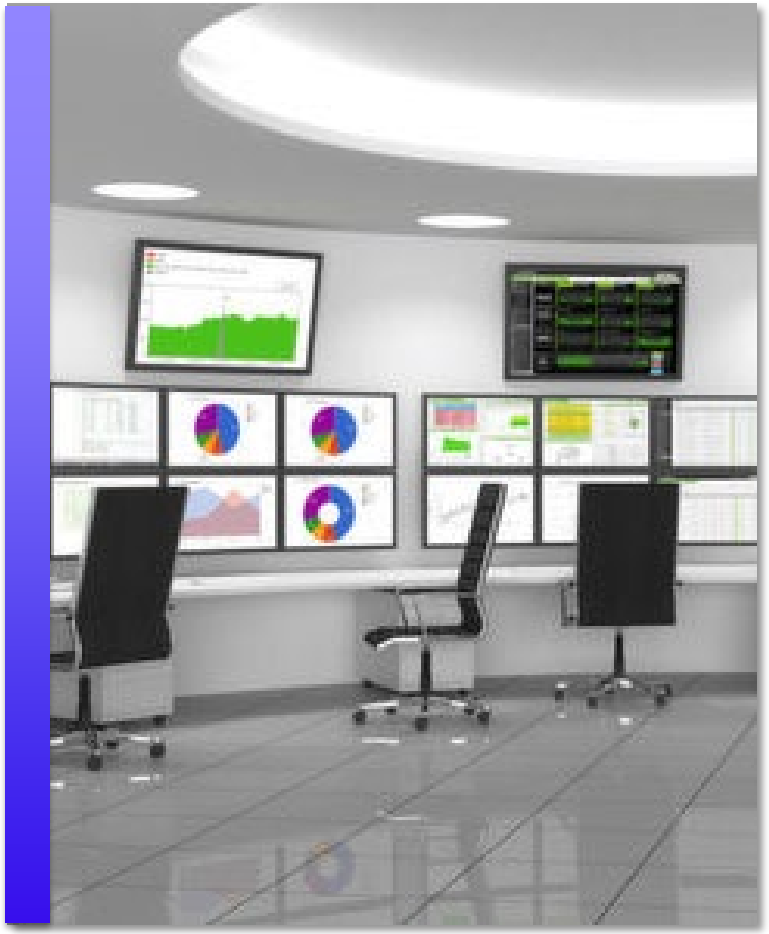
What is a myth?

- Merriam Webster: Myth: noun
  - a usually traditional story of ostensibly historical events that serves to unfold part of the world view of a people or explain a practice, belief, or natural phenomenon
  - a popular belief or tradition that has grown up around something or someone
    - *especially*: one embodying the ideals and institutions of a society or segment of society

Ready for a game?

- We present a Cyber Myth
- We'll confront the Myth with 🔍 **Analysis**
- We'll give a ⚖️ **Verdict** on the Myth:
  - ✅ CONFIRMED
  - ⚠️ PLAUSIBLE
  - 🚨 BUSTED
- We'll provide a 🛠️ **Takeaway**

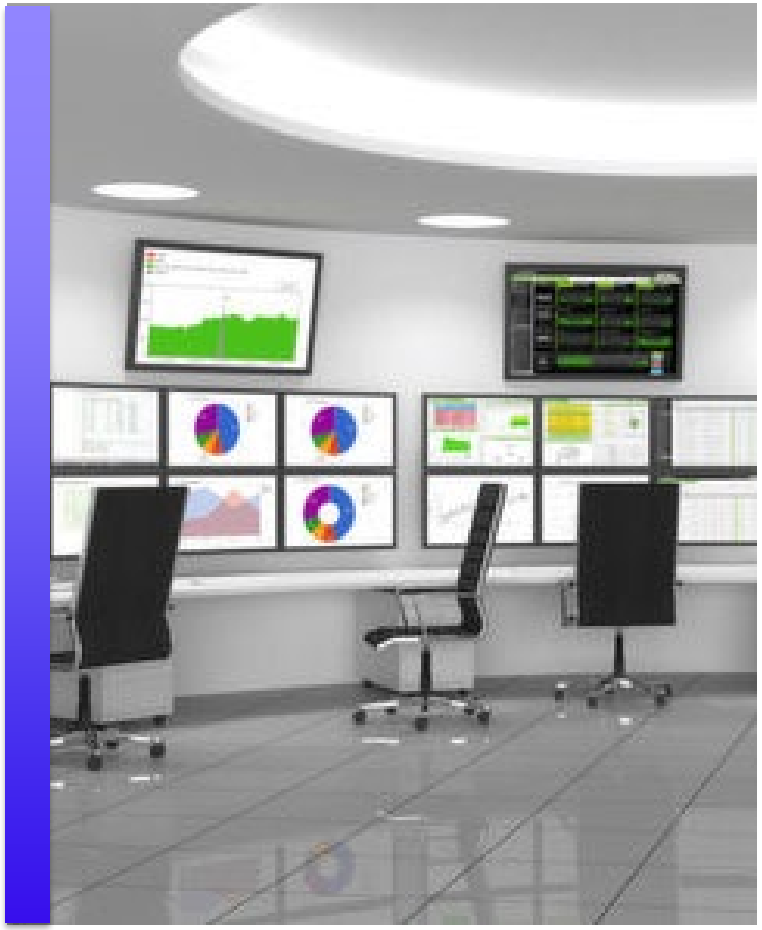
Myth 1: Your Security Operations Center (SOC) is part of your 1st line of defense.



Myth 1: Your Security Operations Center (SOC) is part of your 1st line of defense.

🔍 **Analysis:**

- The "True" First Line
- Operational ≠ First Line; Detection ≠ Prevention
- Assurance Role



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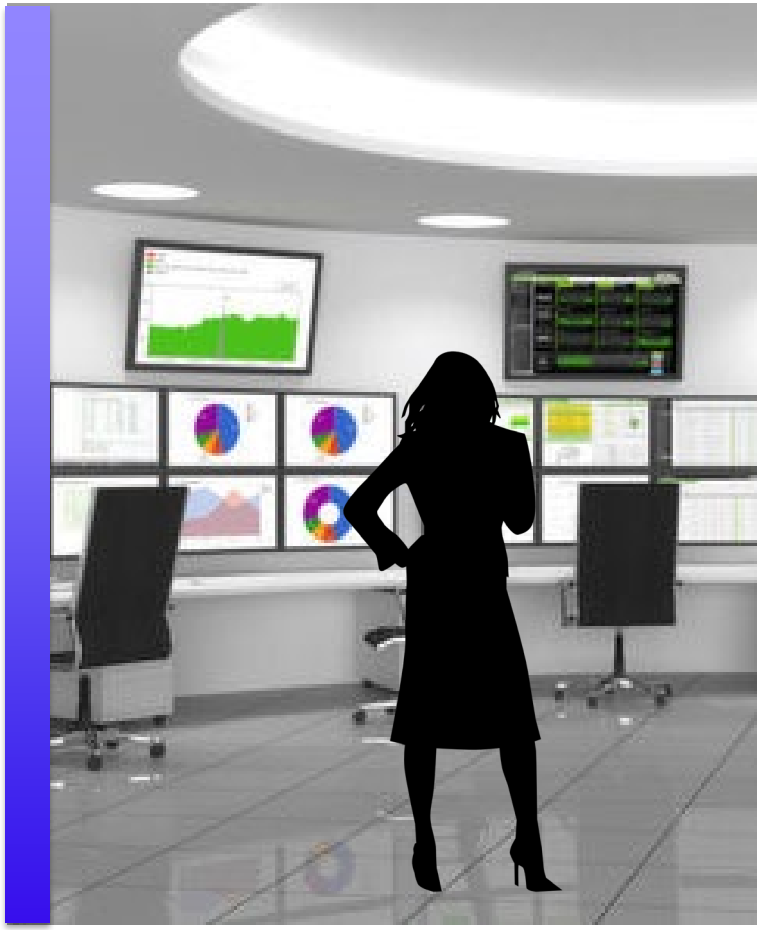
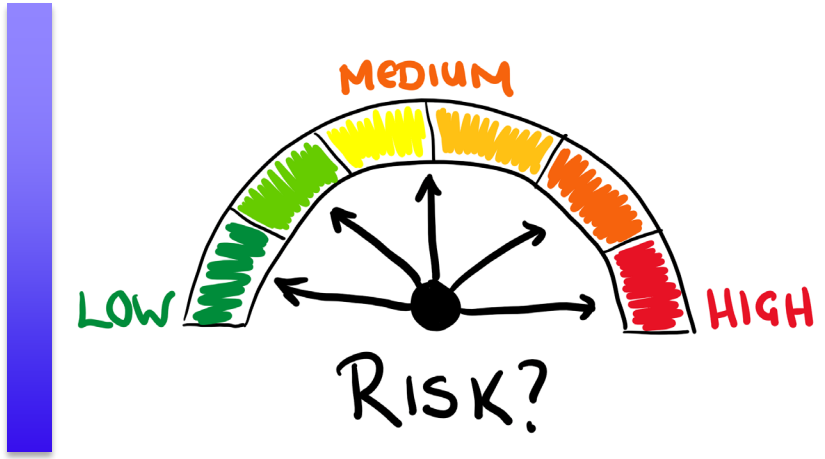
⚖️ **Verdict:** 🚨 **BUSTED!**

🛠️ **Takeaway: Rethink the SOC's function**

- Treat your SOC as an assurance function, not just a technical operation
- Ensure clear separation of duties
- Empower the "True" first line



Myth 2: The board doesn't need to understand cyber security—That's the CISO's job.



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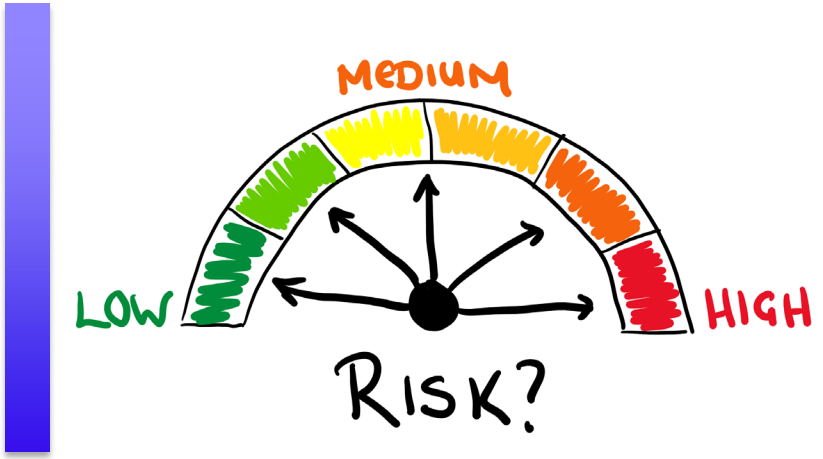
- Oversight vs Management
- Differentiate cybersecurity and cyber risk
- e.g., CFOs **translate** financials; CISOs **translate** cyber
- Regulation & accountability is **increasing**



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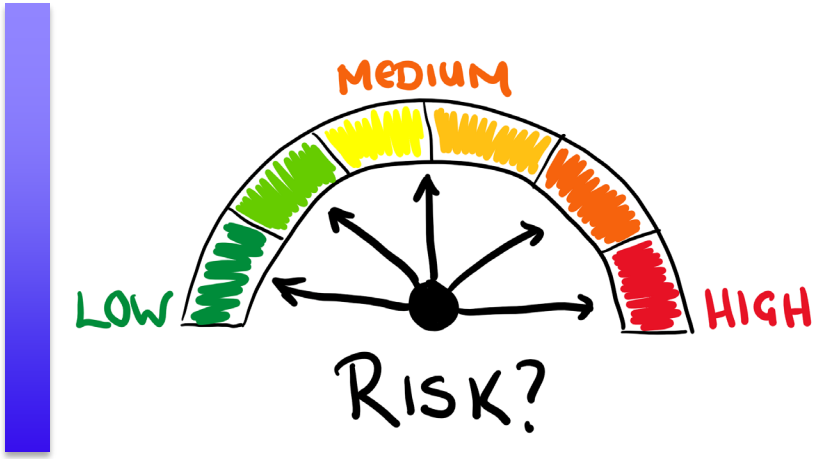
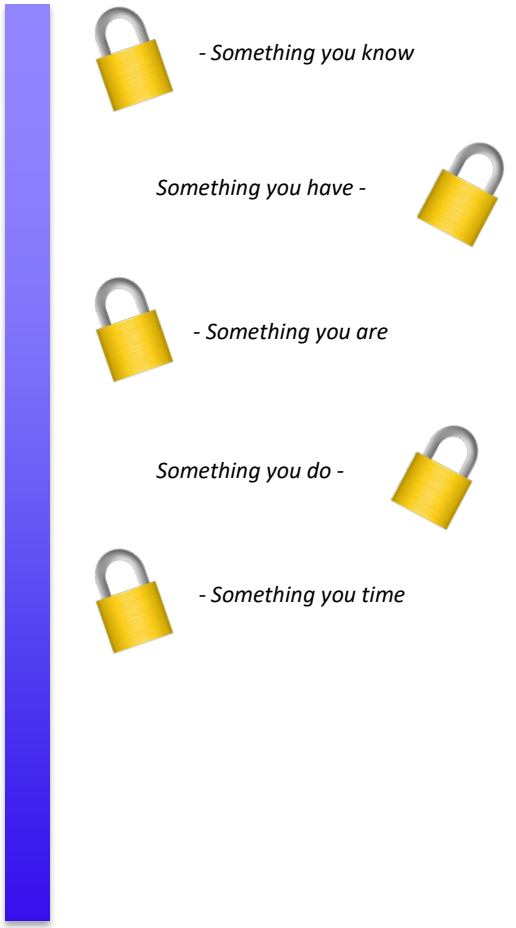
⚖️ **Verdict:** ✅ CONFIRMED**!**

🛠️ **Takeaways:**

- **Cyber = Business Risk**
- **Board Accountability**
- Basic cyber literacy is a must
- **CISO's Role** – Educate, not just inform



Myth 3: MFA is the strongest technical control.



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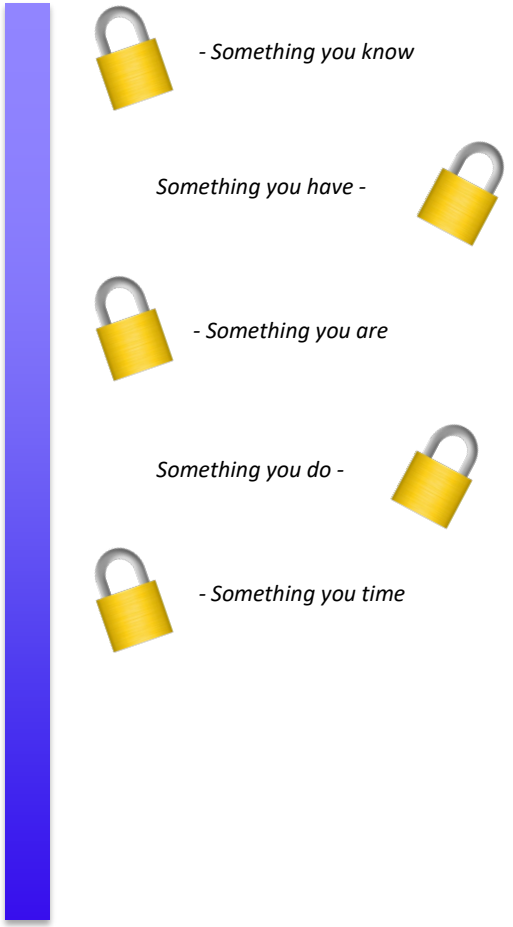
- **Identity** is the new perimeter
- What's the **alternative**?



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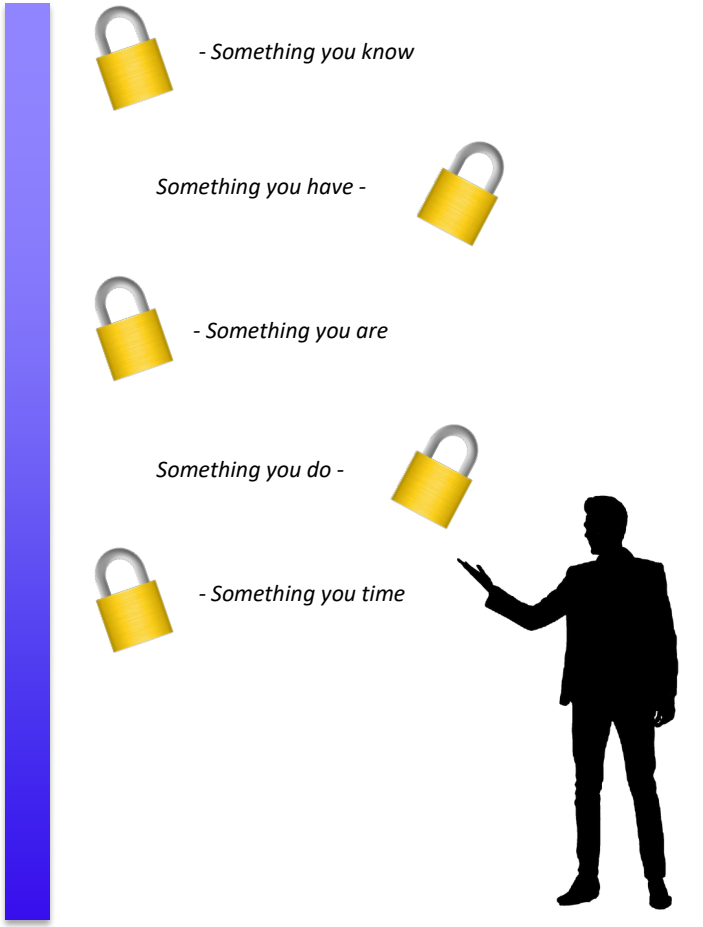
⚖️ **Verdict:** ⚠️ **PLAUSIBLE!**

🛠️ **Takeaway: Strengthen MFA's prerequisites**

- Assess coverage and defense-in-depth
- MFA is challenged by state-level law enforcement
- Hardware Keys are still great (at 5x factors)
- Where is your MFA Authenticator app hosted??



Myth 4: Cyber threats present the greatest risk to your company.

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🔍 **Analysis:**

- Cyber risk is significant, but **context matters**
- **Risk** is threat-, industry-, and scenario-dependent
- **Maturity** matters
- Business-centric risk **appetite**

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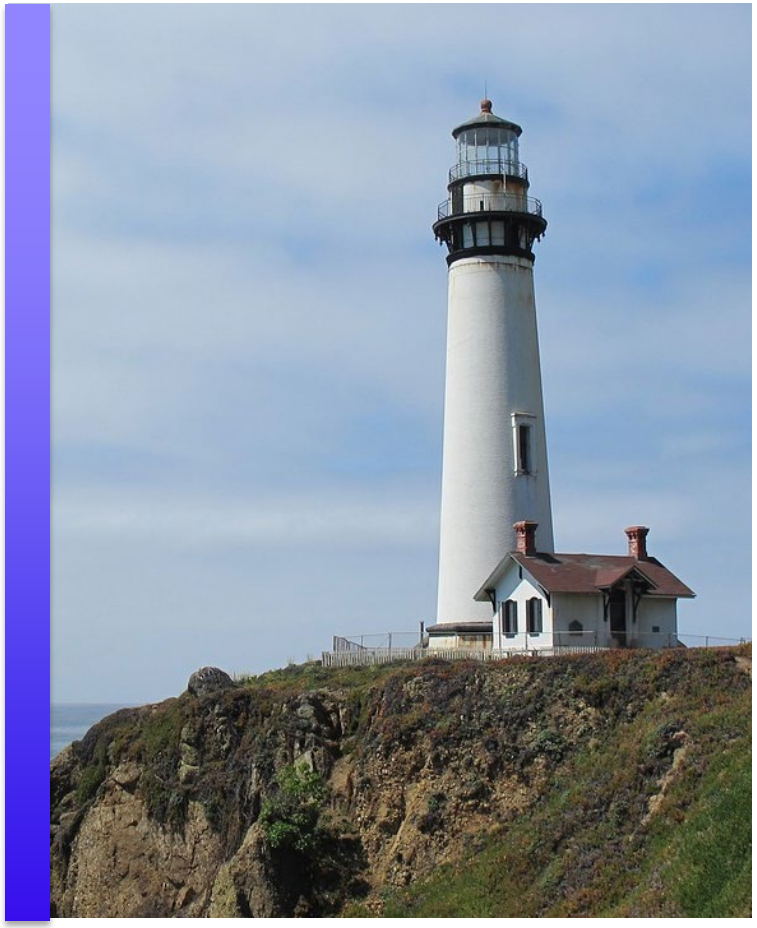
🛠️ **Takeaway: Prioritize Cyber in Context**

- Align cyber risk with top business risks
- Position cyber as a risk management function
- Recognize cyber risk may be vital, but not existential

Myth 5: CISOs are business & culture leaders first, and technology leaders second.



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- Technology is Core
- Business & Risk Fluency = Influence
- Security Culture as a Value Driver
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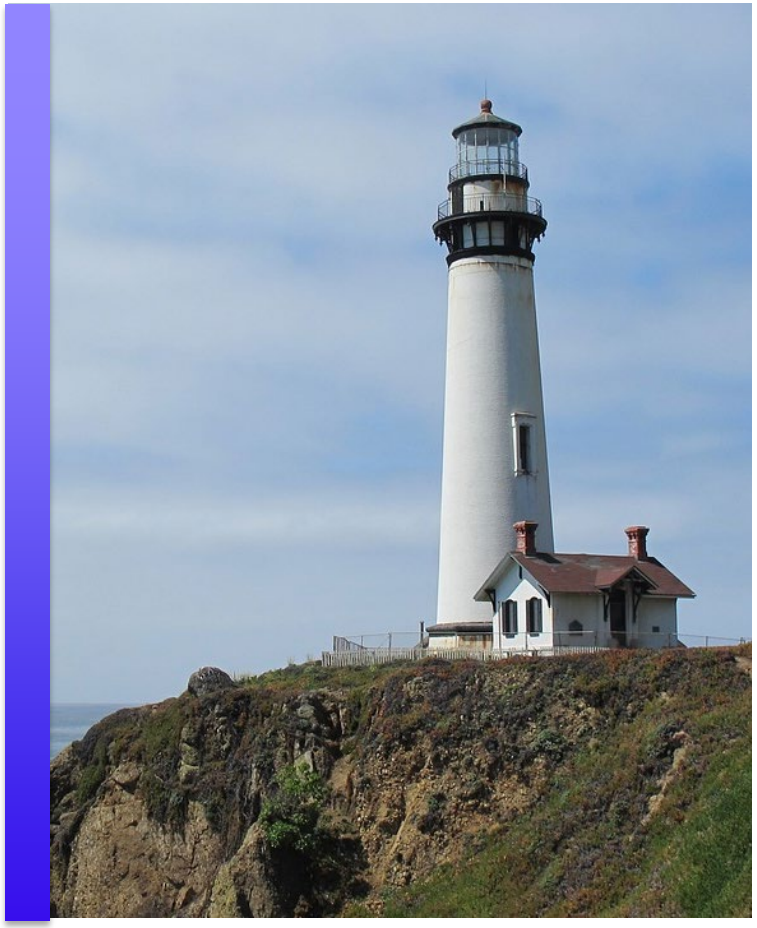

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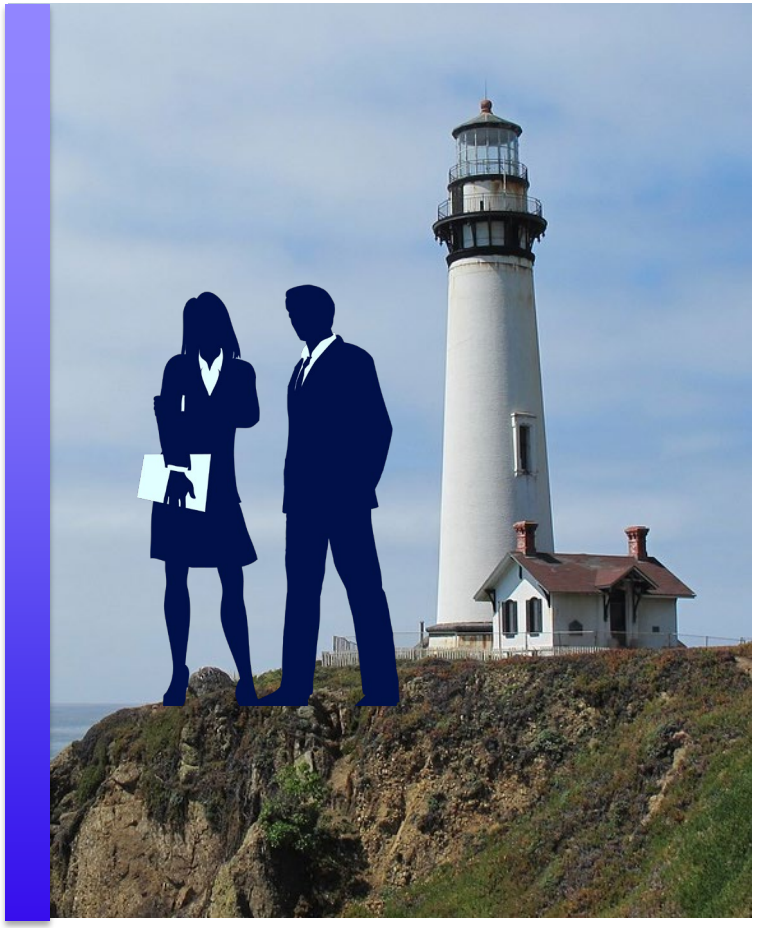
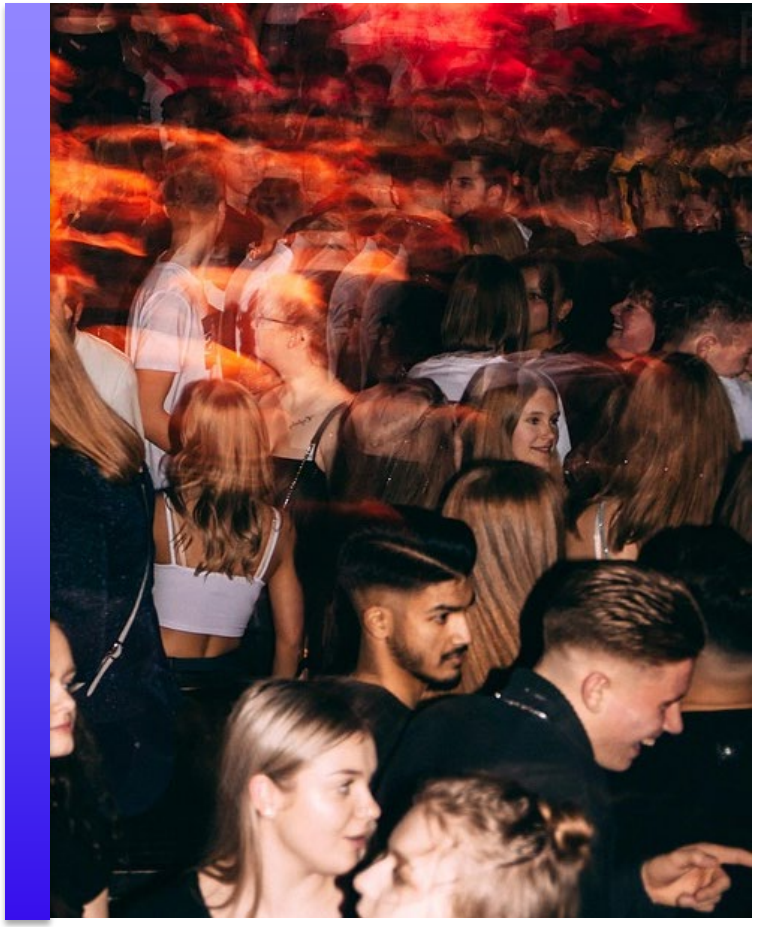
⚖️ **Verdict:** ✅ **CONFIRMED!**

🛠️ **Takeaway: Rethink the CISO Role**

- Develop financial and business acumen
- Translate security into ROI
- Align security metrics with business outcomes



Myth 6: Third Party Risk Management is a wasted effort.



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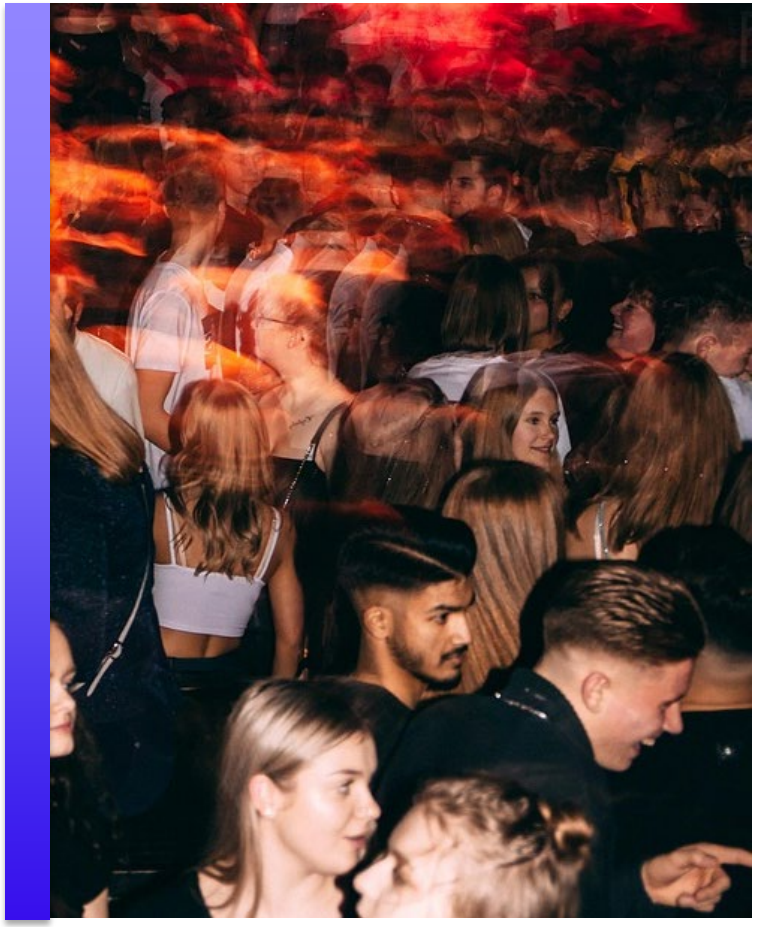
- Questionnaires and SOC 2s can be gamed
- Legal rarely enforces the contract
- Best-effort oversight is better than nothing
- Critical != high risk



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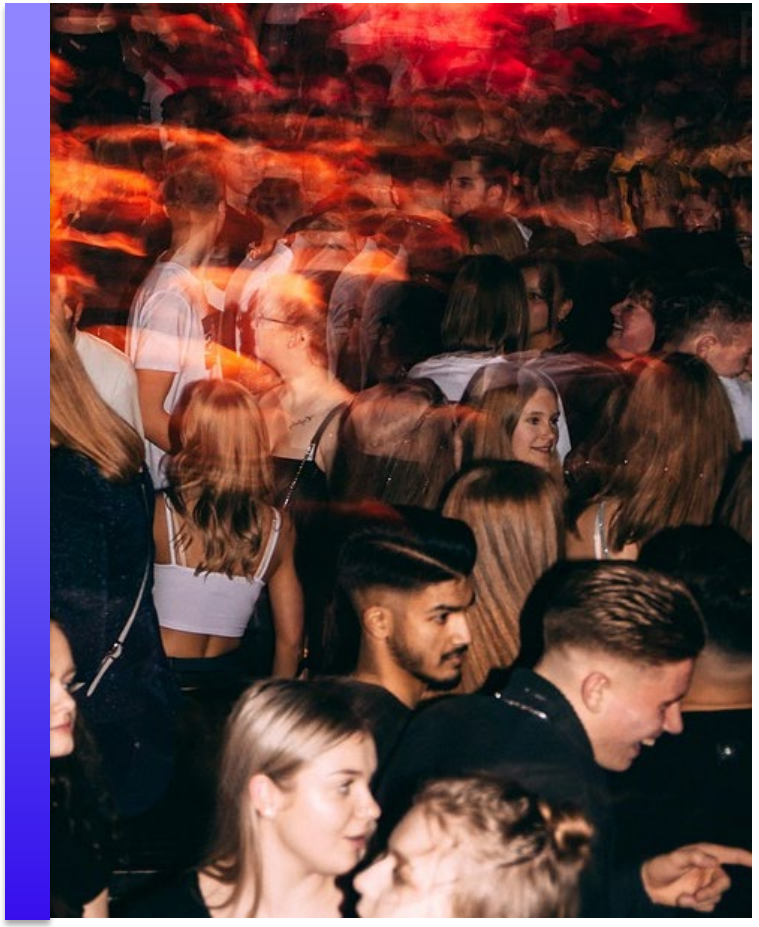
⚖️ **Verdict:** ⚠️ **PLAUSIBLE!**

🛠️ **Takeaways: Move Beyond Paper Compliance**

- **Risk-Tier Vendors** – Focus on those that matter most
- **Monitor Continuously** – Risks evolve



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⚖️ **Verdict:** ⚠️ **PLAUSIBLE!**

🛠️ **Takeaway:** Understand your policy

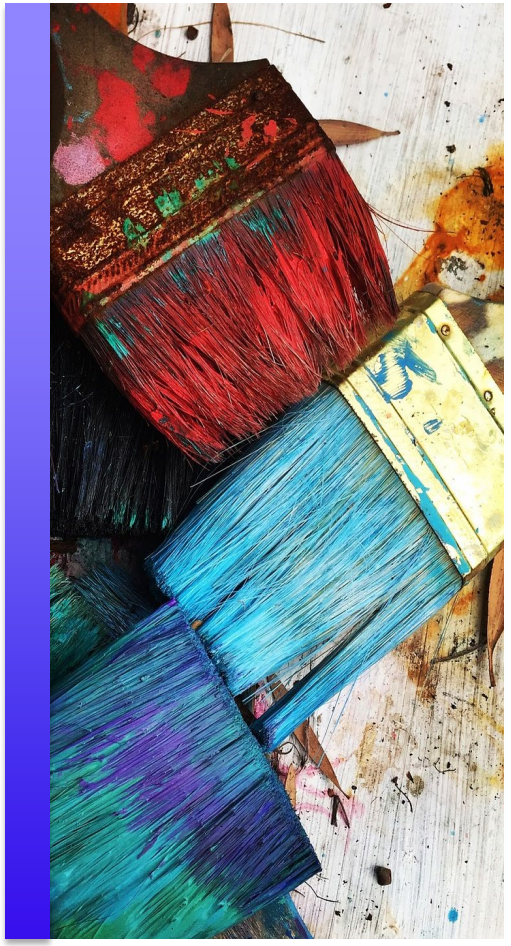
- Meet (or exceed) security requirements
- Be ready for Claim challenges
- Insurance is a safety net, **not** an operational strategy

Apply what you have learned today

✅ **Next Week:**
- Identify 1-2 **myths** in your organization, and start conversations
- Review your **SOC, TPRM, or cyber insurance policies**—gaps?
- Challenge a compliance requirement—does it actually improve security?

✅ **In Three Months:**
- Map **compliance vs. security gaps** in your program
- Strengthen **vendor accountability** with real security requirements
- Improve **incident readiness**

✅ **In Six Months:**
- Shift security from **checkbox-driven** to **risk-driven** strategies
- Align **business and security teams**—bridge the gap in expectations
- Create a **myth-busting mindset**—deliver real change



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Security evolves. So should your approach. 🔥 Let's get to work.

Thank you!

For more information contact

Scott Brammer or Dan Gorecki